

**CLAIMS:**

1. An aqueous solution that prevents the formation of rust, corrosion and scale on metal surfaces that are exposed to it comprising:  
5 potassium sorbate dissolved in tap water or deionized water at a concentration of 0.3 %, by weight, or higher, the aqueous solution having a pH of 4.5 or higher.

10 2. The aqueous solution as set forth in claim 1 in which the concentration of potassium sorbate is in the range of 0.30% to 1.75%.

15 3. A concentrated form of aqueous solution that, when diluted with 16 parts of tap water or deionized water, prevents the formation of rust, corrosion and scale on metal surfaces that is exposed to it comprising a solution formed in accordance with the following ratio of ingredients:

20 269.5 milligrams of tap or deionized water;  
0.5 milligrams of sodium nitrate; and  
270.0 milligrams of potassium sorbate.

25 4. The method of producing a concentrated form of aqueous solution for use as a rust preventor comprising the steps of:

- a) providing 269.5 milligrams of tap or deionized water to a mixing container;
- b) adding 0.5 milligrams of sodium nitrate to the mixing container;
- c) adding 270.0 milligrams of potassium sorbate to the mixing container; and
- d) mixing the contents of the mixing container.

5. The method of producing a aqueous solution for use as a rust preventor comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a multiple of 269.5 milligrams of tap or deionized water to a mixing container;
- b) adding 0.5 milligrams, multiplied by the same multiple, of sodium nitrate to the mixing container;
- c) adding 270.0 milligrams, multiplied by the same multiple, of potassium sorbate to the mixing container; and
- d) diluting the contents of the mixing container with 16 parts of tap or deionized water.